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E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE), AR, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED MONDALE-VIDELA MEETING

1. IN RESPONSE TO AN URGENT REQUEST FROM ARGENTINE
PRESIDENT VIDELA FOR A BRIEF MEETING WHILE BOTH ARE IN
ROME FOR THE INSTALLATION OF POPE JOHN PAUL I, VICE
PRESIDENT MONDALE AGREED TO A MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 4 TO
DISCUSS THE RAPID DETERIORATION IN U.S.-ARGENTINE RELATIONS.
THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL HOLD NO OTHER BILATERALS IN ROME
(PARAGUAYAN FONMIN NOGUES ALSO REQUESTED A SESSION).
IN THE EXPECTATION THAT THE MONDALE-VIDELA MEETING WILL
BREAK IN THE MEDIA, DEPARTMENT HAS PREPARED THE FOLLOWING
PRESS GUIDANCE WHICH YOU MAY USE ON AN IF-ASKED BASIS ONLY.

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Q: WILL (DID) VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE MEET WITH ARGENTINE
PRESIDENT VIDELA IN ROME?

A: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AGREED TO A REQUEST FROM
PRESIDENT VIDELA TO MEET IN ROME. THE MEETING WILL AFFORD
(HAS AFFORDED) AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW FURTHER THE
CURRENT STATE OF U.S.-ARGENTINE RELATIONS.

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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Q: IS THE VICE PRESIDENT MEETING (HAS HE MET) WITH ANYONE ELSE?

A: THERE REALLY ISN'T MUCH TIME FOR EXTRA MEETINGS NOW. PRESIDENT VIDELA ASKED TO SEE THE VICE PRESIDENT, SO A SHORT MEETING WAS ARRANGED.

Q: WHAT DID THEY TALK ABOUT?

A: THEY BRIEFLY REVIEWED IN A GENERAL WAY THE STATE OF U.S.-ARGENTINE RELATIONS. BOTH OF THEM AGREED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT BOTH COUNTRIES SEEK TO STRENGTHEN THIS RELATIONSHIP.

Q: ISN'T HUMAN RIGHTS ONE OF THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ARGENTINA?

A: YES. IT WAS OF COURSE ONE OF THE TOPICS WHICH WAS COVERED DURING THEIR REVIEW OF U.S.-ARGENTINE RELATIONS.

2. WE HAVE TOLD THE ARGENTINES THAT WE BELIEVE THIS MEETING SHOULD BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL AND THAT WE DID NOT INTEND TO PUBLICIZE THE MEETING. THE ARGENTINES AGREED. FOR THIS REASON, WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR TREATING SECRET

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THE ABOVE AS HIGHLY SENSITIVE, WITH PRESS USE ONLY IN EVENT MEETING BREAKS IN YOUR LOCAL MEDIA AND ON IF-ASKED BASIS.

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FOR UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM AND ASST. SECRETARY VAKY
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TAGS: AR, US, OVIP

SUBJ: PROPOSED VIDELA-MONDALE MEETING IN ROME

1. FOR PAST SEVERAL DAYS ITALIAN PRESS HAS BEEN FILLED
WITH STORIES PROTESTING IMMINENT ARRIVAL HERE OF ARGENTINE
PRESIDENT VIDELA TO HEAD HIS COUNTRY'S DELEGATION TO PAPAL
INAUGURAL. ANGRY, BITTER ARTICLES OBJECT TO "DICTATOR"
VIDELA'S HERE PRESENCE IN ITALY WHICH SOME PAPERS
CHARACTERIZE AS "INSULT TO ALL CATHOLICS." POSSIBILITY
OR ORGANIZED POLITICAL PROTESTS CANNOT BE DISCOUNTED.

2. WHILE EMBASSY WILL MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO PREVENT
DISCLOSURE TO PRESS OF PROPOSED MEETING BETWEEN VICE PRESIDENT AND
VIDELA, PRESENCE OF JOURNALISTS AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE
(FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE REMARKS) DURING TIME OF
PROPOSED MEETING, AS WELL AS POSSIBILITY OF LEAKS FROM
ARGENTINE DELEGATION, POSE THREAT TO CONFIDENTIALITY
OF ENCOUNTER WHICH CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF ITALIAN PRESS
WOULD SEEK TO USE TO DETRIMENT OUR INTERESTS HERE.

3. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, BELIEVE WE SHOULD PREPARE
PRESS GUIDANCE FOR USE IN EVENT OF LEAKS. WE PROPOSE
RESPONSE FOR USE ON "IF ASKED" BASIS ALONG FOLLOWING
LINES:
QUOTE: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE MET BRIEFLY THIS MORNING
WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE AMERICAN
AMBASSADOR IN ROME. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO
DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES WHICH HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT
OF EARLIER CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.
END QUOTE. PLEASE ADVISE.

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

BARTH, IND, VP, *SUNSET*
EDR: MATHEWS, HUNTER, PASTOR

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